

REMARKS

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his examination of the present application and the office action of September 1, 2004 and for allowing claims 5,6,12,13 and 16 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Please note that claims 2 and 8 have been cancelled.

Applicant has corrected the priority claim in the first paragraph of the application that was objected to be the examiner. It is not believed that a petition is necessary for this correction as priority to the U.S. provisional application was clearly recited and only the serial number which was not known at the time of filing is being added. In any event, the correction is being made within sixteen months from the date of filing of the priority application which is September 3, 2003.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 8-10, 14, 15 and 16 have been rejected as being anticipated by Rowlette et al. (US 5720231). Claim 12 and 15 which were found to be allowable have been amended to include the limitations of claim 8. Claim 13, 14, and 15 depend from allowable claim 12 and Claim 17 depends from allowable claim 16. Please note that claim 9-12 have been amended to make them dependent on allowable claim 16.

Claims 18-21 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kam-Hoi (U.S. Patent No. 5,791,763). The reference to Kam-Hoi teaches the use of a fan. A fan is not a draft inducer. The present application clearly states beginning at page 1 line 19 that “[f]uel burning furnaces commonly have an attached draft inducer that mixes ambient air with exhaust gasses (i.e., fumes) produced by burning fuel. After the exhaust gasses and ambient air are mixed, they are vented from the furnace through an

exhaust pipe. Among other benefits, draft inducers can improve efficiency by controlling the flow of exhaust gasses from their furnaces.”

Draft inducer's as opposed to fans induce the flow of air and exhaust through a ducted medium wherein an impedance is present. Thus, draft inducers operate in high pressure and high flow rate systems, whereas fans operate in low pressure and low flow rate systems and experience negligible impedance. Thus, the reference to Kam-Hoi lacks at least the inducer unit of claim 18 and is not directed to a draft inducer system as required by the preamble of the claim. As a result, claim 18 is allowable over the art of record as are claims 19-21 that depend from claim 18.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1,3,4, and 7 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Doss (5199385) in view of Shellenberger et al. (US 5950573). Claim 1 as amended is directed to a draft inducer system having a voltage reducer capable of converting an input AC voltage to a reduced DC voltage. Although the reference to Doss shows an AC wall plug in Fig. 3 and also shows a draft inducer and draft inducer housing 100, the Doss reference clearly lacks a voltage reducer that is capable of providing a reduced DC voltage to the inducer. The reference to Shellenberger also lacks this limitation as Shellenberger merely shows a transformer 58. As a result claim 1 and dependent claims 3, 4 and 7 are allowable over the art of record since none of the cited references either alone or in combination teaches all of the limitation of amended claim 1.

Claim 2 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Doss and Shellenberger in view of Erdman. As previously shown the references to Doss

and Shelleberger do not teach all of the elements of independent claim 1. The reference to Erdman only adds that a DC motor can be used in the furnace blower control field. See col. 1 lines 49-65. The Erdman reference does not add the teaching of providing a reduced DC voltage to the inducer from an AC voltage received from a wall plug.

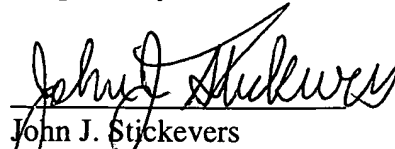
As a result, claim 2 is allowable over the art of record since the references alone or in combination do not teach or make obvious all of the limitation of the claimed invention.

It is believed that all of the claim rejections have been addressed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

If any matter arises which may expedite issuance of a notice of allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned, at the telephone number given below.

It is believed that a one month extension is required for this application. A check for \$374 is enclosed herewith to cover both the one-month extension and the new independent claims. If any additional fees are required for the timely consideration of this application, please charge deposit account number 19-4972.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Stickevers", is written over a horizontal line.

John J. Stickevers
Registration No. 39,387
Attorney for Applicant

BROMBERG & SUNSTEIN LLP
125 Summer Street
Boston MA 02110-1618
Tel: 617 443 9292 Fax: 617 443 0004
00917/00A03 348965.1